ABSTRACT

A method of determining a maximum packet size for data packets sent along a network path. A sending computer sends a packet to a receiving computer through a sending interface. The packet is fragmented during transfer to a receiving interface. The fragments are analyzed at the receiving interface and their size determined. The size of a fragment is compared to a pre-determined maximum packet size, and in response to the comparison, the maximum packet size is changed. The change is then reported to the sending interface and stored in a memory. Subsequent communications from the sending interface to the receiving interface are sent in packets of the size stored in the memory. Because the maximum packet size of a network path can change over time, test packets can be sent periodically to determine the maximum packet size.

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